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EUGENE WEEKLY

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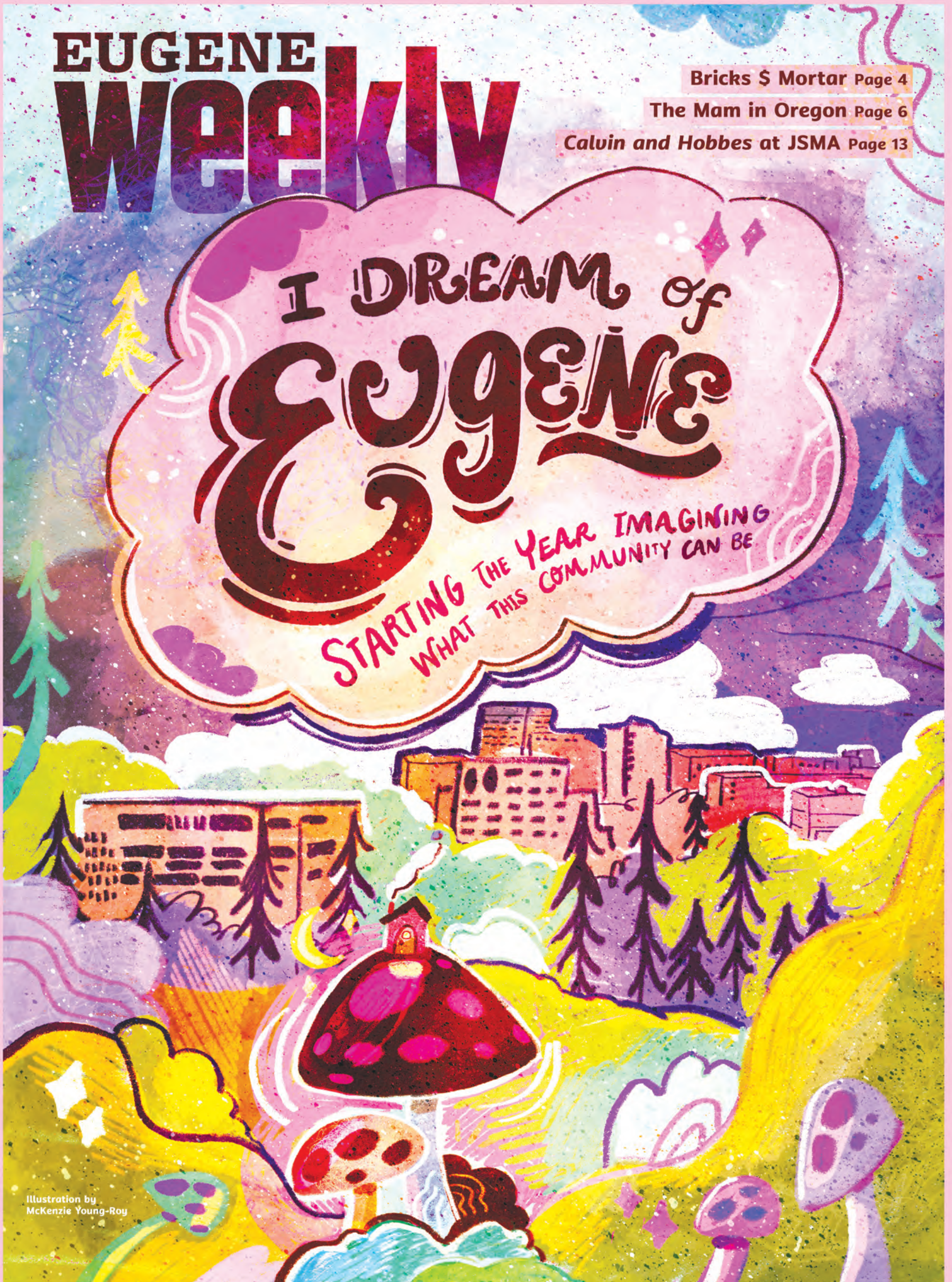
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I DREAM of EUGENE

STARTING THE YEAR IMAGINING
WHAT THIS COMMUNITY CAN BE

Illustration by
McKenzie Young-Roy



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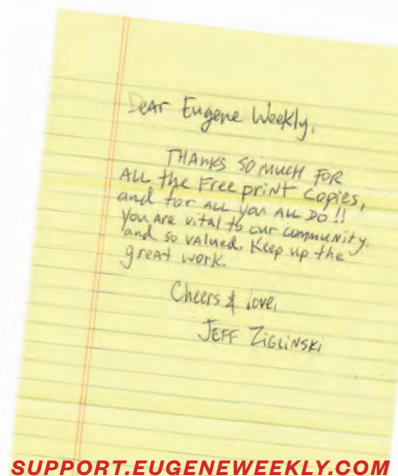
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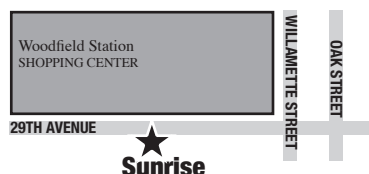
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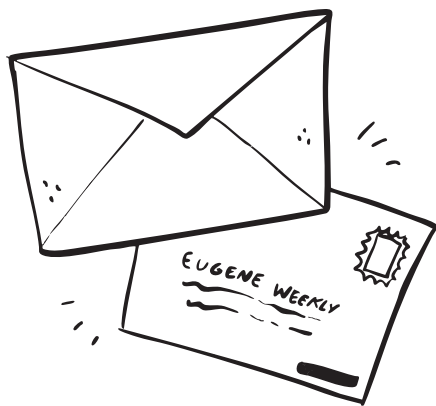
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letters

From Dreams to Kazoos



Here's a Dream

To reduce air pollution and prevent injuries to pedestrians and bicyclists, all non-commercial SUVs and full-size pick-up trucks are banned from driving within city limits.

Brad Stewart
Eugene

Another Dream

I dream of Eugene waking up to the gentle sounds of the Willamette River floating peacefully on a warm summer day near the I-5 bridge. The gentle sounds of the river are broken by a violently crashing noise.

What could it be? It's the rushing-swirling water slamming from side to side against the Millrace low-head dam concrete abutments. The Millrace low-head dam is a nightmare that is a death trap. I know because two years ago I was tubing peacefully floating down the Willamette River when I went over the Millrace Dam. I would have drowned if I hadn't been wearing a life vest.

I dream that the city of Eugene, which purchased the Millrace in 1947, will make a serious decision to remove the dam. Maybe Eugene can get some pointers from the city of Florence, which gained experience with dynamite when they blew up the whale on the beach on Nov. 12, 1970? It was a massive "Blubber Blunder," but they learned from their mistakes.

I'm sure the city of Florence will take on this whale of a problem and help Eugene blow up the Millrace low-head dam. It's time to wake up!

Frank Harper
Springfield

We Got Through the Year

Congrats to *Eugene Weekly* on making it through a very difficult 2024! I'm sending good vibes that this coming year will be a bit easier and, who knows, perhaps even more productive and expansive.

Keep those donations coming in!

On that topic of a rough year, would it be possible to update readers on the criminal investigation regarding the paper? I know the arc of justice bends slowly, but surely, after a full year, some progress has been made. All your readers would enjoy knowing something about where we stand in the case and what it all might mean for you and your staff.

Lou Caton
Eugene

Editor's Note: Thanks for the vibes! We try to update our readers whenever we get an update — we are as impatient as anyone for a resolution to this. We have handed over all our documentation to the Eugene Police Department and it is in their hands.

Play the Kazoo

While I am hoping that Eugene coalesces to form an anti-inauguration event, I also want to pass along three simple action items put forth by geopolitical analyst Malcolm Nance on Substack: "You asked for it and now you got it. This is the first in a series of substacks on how you can form a resistance movement that will be small, local and have a huge impact nationally. We have ways to resist tyrants and you will need them all." He points out that German occupation of France in WWII mobilized a non-compliant underground. He suggests FAFO — Focused Action with Focused Objectives — for a present-day upgrade.

Right now, three steps: 1. Do not watch/read any inauguration-related social media or news media events, at all, for the first 100 hours; 2. Copy and download your X posts and prepare to delete your account at high noon Jan. 20; 3. The moment after you delete X, create a video of you playing "The Imperial March" on a kazoo. That's right, a kazoo. Splash your videos during

your week-long inaugural blackout onto social media. It's not much, but it's not nothing. Share with 20 million friends. Onward.

Rebecca McCroskey
Eugene

Rewrite!

Let me help rewrite "Sadness, Despair and Anger" (*EW*, 12/26) for your staff.

Mayor Lucy Vinis was assaulted with a bowl of food thrown by an unnamed, ungrateful, unwanted homeless person at an overburdened local shelter.

Eugene does better than most cities. This place has a big heart, but there isn't an unlimited budget for anything.

As a retired LTD bus operator, I can tell you empathy is running on fumes for people who throw food at our mayor or turn their backs in protest against local government officials who at least show up.

Eugene has become a drop zone and sanctuary city from everywhere else. Take Bend, for example: zero accommodation, no "remembrance day," no hot bowl of chili.

I suggest "Barefoot Defenders" take a barefoot adult homeless person or two home with them. Improve a life.

Many "expecting" accommodations have worn out their own families. Sorry, but this is the end of your line. Did you make yourself unwelcome at every last location? No ID, no money, no clue? Smoking meth? Being disruptive? No attempt at self improvement? Stealing bicycles? Wandering into traffic barefoot wearing a dark hoodie?

Asleep in broad daylight next to a massive pile of debris, sprawled in the middle of a sidewalk? Throwing a chair through the window of the ER waiting room? Is that you? Is that what you bring to the table? OK, good luck with that, mister.

Glenn Jones
Eugene

Doing the Sensible

A Subway restaurant stands vacant near the Washington Jefferson Bridge. The former Highway 99 Pub, in the parking lot of Albertson's on 18th near Chambers is also vacant.

Both of these sites are not surrounded by homes and children but are loosely surrounded by businesses, streets and open space. So it would be sensible and doable to rent one or both of these empty

buildings and allow one of several volunteer organizations, such as Neighbors Feeding Neighbors, to feed Eugene residents who are hungry.

Since food is a human right, the least we can do is protect the impoverished and hungry members of our community. Can we seek a way to rent one or both of these buildings, or at least the parking lot in front of the Subway, to allow responsive neighbors to give food and dignity to 100 or more of the 3,000 people who live without homes in Eugene?

Katherine Bragg
Eugene

The Health Care Crisis

The murder of a CEO demonstrated the frustration and anger of millions of people fed up with our for-profit health insurance system. They delay, deny and depose to increase their profits. If it weren't for Obamacare, they would deny pre-existing conditions, and their administrative costs and profits would soar above their 20 percent limit. Most people would like a public option to provide competition and lower prices, but the Trump administration will do the opposite. They want to eliminate the Affordable Care Act, Medicare and Medicaid and turn it all over to for-profit insurance companies to help pay for their tax cuts for the rich.

The rest of the developed world provides universal health care at half the cost with better health outcomes. Why can't we, the wealthiest country in the world, do the same? The Republicans in Congress oppose any government programs or oversight that would limit corporate profits, but the states can do something.

Canada's universal health care system started in Saskatchewan, and then when the other provinces saw how well it worked, they adopted the system nationwide. We should do the same. We could start a regional universal healthcare system in California, Oregon and Washington. This would save billions in administrative costs. We could also change our education systems to provide free medical education in exchange for two or three years of service in rural communities, where health care is becoming rare. We need many more doctors and nurses. If Cuba can provide them, why can't we?

Jerry Brule
Eugene

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Photo by Elle Wayt @ewaytphoto

New Boot Goofin'

Former University of Oregon athlete launches her second local business

BY SAM SOBEL

A former Division I University of Oregon basketball player and Eugene native celebrated the third anniversary of success with her business, Bando's Clothing & Goods, and launched her cowboy boot brand, Bando's Boots, on Dec. 21.

Bando's is a Western boho boutique full of Lexi Bando's favorite designs and pieces. After creating her own merchandise and trucker hats for local football fans, Bando had the idea to start her own brand.

"What better products than cowboy boots?

They are timeless staple pieces that you can keep in your closet forever and pass down," Bando says.

Bando was mentored by Kyle Baker, one of the owners of Baker's Boots and Clothing, a local boot-making company with more than 50 years of experience. After two years of learning how cowboy boots were made and switching factories, Bando finalized her design.

According to Bando, each pair of boots is handcrafted in León, Mexico, by a family-owned factory. Bando's design brings a new modern twist to the Western classic. Bando says, "It's more like a streetwear cowgirl style. You can wear them on the ranch or if you want to go ride horses, but they're meant to be worn everywhere and by everyone. The goal is to create a sustainable piece of fashion that you can re-sole, fix up, and basically keep forever."

Bando's is located at 5th Street Public Market Alley, 550 Pearl Street, and online at ShopwithBandos.com.

Bricks \$ Mortar Real Estate News in Lane County

HOMES ON THE HIGH PLATEAU

The real estate market looks tight in 2025

BY CHRISTIAN WIHTOL

This holiday season brings scant cheer for Lane County residents trying to buy a home. Home prices are on a plateau — a frighteningly high one.

Home and apartment construction have been brisk in Eugene-Springfield in recent years, but demand outstrips supply. Like much of the rest of the West Coast, we keep the distinction of being among the least affordable places in the nation.

The average home sales price in Eugene-Springfield was \$469,200 in November, the latest report from the Regional Multiple Listing Service shows. A year earlier, it was \$455,700. Average sale prices here have been largely level since mid-2022, fluctuating in the \$450,000 to \$500,000 range, according to RMLS data.

The inventory of homes for sale is thin. At the current pace, there's 2.9 months of inventory in the Eugene-Springfield market, the same as a year earlier, according to RMLS data. A balanced market has six months of for-sale inventory, experts say.

What does 2025 hold? More of the same, some real estate brokers say.

The rise in mortgage rates in the past year has deterred sellers and buyers, says Eugene real estate broker Christopher Dean of Bennett & Dean Real Estate. Higher rates raise a home's monthly cost to buyers,

while potential sellers who hold low-rate mortgages are loath to sell and then take out a higher-rate loan to buy a new home, he says.

"First-time buyers who are faced with overpriced rents are still motivated to buy, but we have quite a few people who would like to sell their current home and buy something else, who are holding off," says Dean, a former president of the Eugene Association of Realtors.

Dean says he's had some out-of-area clients opt against moving to Lane County "due to the lack of affordability here." He adds: "I recently spoke with a recruiter who said they lost several potential new hires due to the housing market here."

Lane County's "limited housing inventory and strong demand have kept prices steady, even with higher interest rates," says Jacklyn Pettigrew, a broker with KJ Hybrid Real Estate in Eugene and the current president of the Eugene Realtors Association. "Some local buyers feel discouraged by Lane County's prices, especially first-time home buyers. For out-of-state buyers, reactions vary. Relocating buyers from California often find Lane County affordable and appreciate the value they get compared to their (California) markets. However, buyers coming from areas with lower costs of living can

be surprised by the average home price here," she says.

Oregon leaders have long fretted over the high cost of housing. Gov. Tina Kotek wants to pump up housing

production, especially of apartments that are taxpayer-subsidized so their rents stay below market. But experts haven't figured out a politically acceptable way to increase production of market-priced single-family homes.

"Most families want to live in single-family homes, not apartments or small attached units," writes Katryn Hickok, executive vice president at Cascade Policy Institute, a Portland-based free-market-oriented advocacy group. The state should weaken its urban growth boundary laws to let cities expand, so developers can "build neighborhoods that people want to live in," Hickok writes in a recent article on the CPI website.

A 2024 report by Oregon Housing and Community Services, a state agency, says the crisis has worsened in recent years. "Home prices have far outpaced wage gains over the past decade in the for-sale market," says the report.

In 2023, only 29 percent of Oregon households could afford to buy a typical home, compared to 53 percent a decade earlier, the report says. "Rapid rent

increases have largely eroded the wage gains Oregon renters experienced over the last five years," it adds.

Some data for the statistically inclined:

- Homes sold in Eugene-Springfield in November were on the market an average 60 days, a little higher than the previous two years, according to RMLS.

- Active listings in the metro area were up a bit, to 800, compared to just over 700 a year earlier.

- Construction has been steady, but not enough to drop prices. In Eugene 2022-2024, a total of 2,189 new dwelling units were built, 1,134 of them apartments, the rest single-family homes, duplexes and condos, according to city data. Many of the apartments were student housing near the University of Oregon.

- Lane County's population is growing. Last July 1, it stood at 383,000, up from 381,000 in July 2021, according to Portland State University's Population Research Center. The county will hit 385,000 this year, and 394,000 by 2030, PSU forecasts.

"Looking ahead to 2025, I expect prices to grow modestly," Pettigrew says.

Bricks and Mortar is a column anchored by Christian Wihtol, who worked as an editor and writer at The Register-Guard in Eugene 1990-2018, much of the time focused on real estate, economic development and business. Reach him at Christian@EugeneWeekly.com.

happening people

Jane Dods BY PAUL NEEVEL

Born in Hollywood, California, Jane Dods is the daughter of a New Zealand sheep farmer who crossed the Pacific to visit his brother, an extra in “oaters” (horse operas). “Dad’s first job was grooming horses for the 20th Century Fox polo team,” Dods explains. “Then he got on the team as a player. Mom’s family put on musicals in their home, and dad’s brother was a singer — that’s how Dad met Mom. By the time I was born, in 1935, my father was head of film editing at 20th Century Fox.”

Dods had a comfortable childhood in L.A., though her mother was a “motion picture widow” due to her husband’s work schedule. “When I was 18, I tried running on my school’s 440 yard track,” Dods recalls, “but I was kicked out. They didn’t think women could do track. It wasn’t until 20 years later, during the running boom, that I learned I could run a marathon. I used to run about three marathons a year.” Dods has a large collection of age-group ribbons and trophies for 5K, 10K

and marathon races. In 1978, she was a founding member of a gay running group, the Los Angeles Frontrunners.

She worked in the recording industry in L.A., but was eventually driven away by increasing traffic. She moved to Eugene in 1990 and worked part-time as a secretary with a temp agency. “I came to Eugene at age 55 and retired at 60,” she notes. “Traveling was and is my big love. Before the pandemic I took at least one big trip every year. I’ve been to all seven continents, picked apples in Tasmania and climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. I spent my 81st birthday in Antarctica, waddling with the penguins on the 21st of December, the longest day of the year!”

This year she celebrated her 89th birthday in Eugene on the 21st of December, the shortest day of the year. A local group that plays a role in her life is the Talkie-Walkies, an informal gay social club that



meets on Wednesday mornings at Alton Baker Park and makes its way to the Fifth Street Market for coffee and conversation. “Some of us walk, some talk, and some do both,” she adds. “We also get together for plays, concerts and Ems games. Our fearless leader Jerry keeps us all together.”

Dods’ book *Jane without Tarzan, Adventures of a Single Woman* can be purchased online.

Know a Happening Person you would love to see recognized? Send suggestions to Editor@EugeneWeekly.com.

slant So that happened

BY EW EDITORIAL STAFF

>> 2024 has been a wild ride for *Eugene Weekly*.

From going under due to the embezzlement by a once-trusted employee to the community bringing us back. We weren’t saved by a big donor giving millions but by you, our readers, giving support, one by one. To answer one question that repeatedly comes up: Where is the investigation? As soon as we knew what had happened last December, we reported the embezzlement to the Eugene Police Department. Investigating and prosecuting an embezzlement is lengthy and expensive — for those who have been embezzled, perhaps one reason you rarely hear about “smaller” embezzlements putting businesses under. The business or nonprofit is either embarrassed and can’t afford the investigation — a retainer for a forensic accountant firm is \$10,000 or more — or it’s gone under and doesn’t have the finances to pay accountants to go through the files. Our accountants at Kernutt Stokes dove into *EW*’s financials for months, and the investigation is now in the hands of EPD.

>> Back to our wild ride! In 2024, *Eugene Weekly*’s reporting on drugging allegations at the University of Oregon “revealed gaps in the university’s reporting structures,” that the school addressed with “updated training” for people who might receive reports and “putting a team in place that reviews Clery-reportable crimes to determine if the community needs to be alerted to a threat.” Our reporting on Lane Community College’s handling of students with preg-

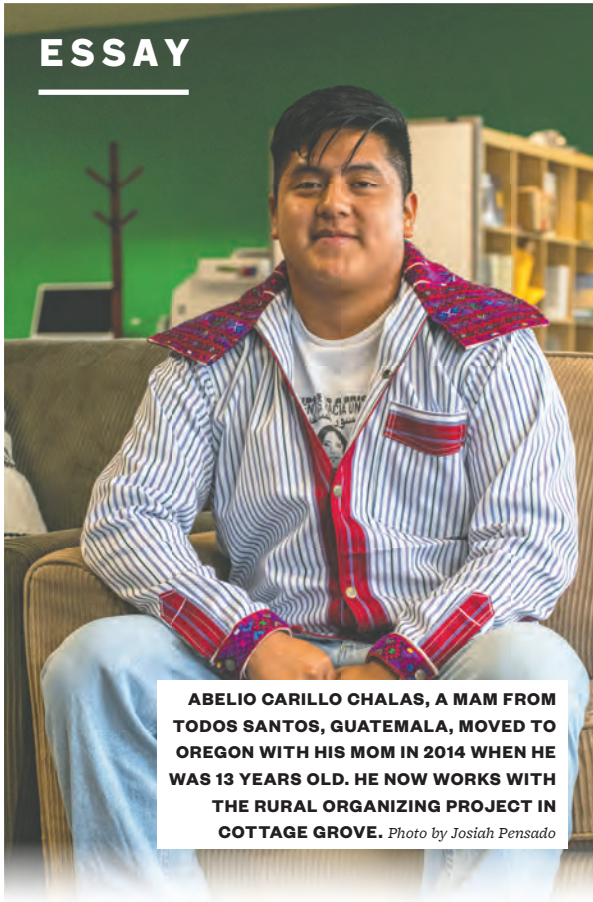
nancy-related conditions under Title IX also led to changes at that school. *EW*, with Catalyst Journalism Project, exposed the investigation into allegations of retaliation and bullying against now-former 4J superintendent Andy Dey. And we continued to report on housing, homelessness and issues that matter to this local community. Finally, our endorsements in local elections were among the most-read stories in the paper — which we love because we spend a lot of time sitting down with politicians! with no paywall and no subscription, just your fav liberal rag printing 27,000 copies a week!

>> So what were the most-read stories in the paper? For reasons we are deeply unclear — but kinda love — the most clicked story was sort-of-retired Arts Editor Bob Keefer’s “The Secret Temple of EWEB” about his journey into, and the acoustics of, the doomed College Hill Reservoir. Maybe y’all love a good secret temple story? This was followed by Best of Eugene (because readers love the love), then the Catalyst Journalism Project stories about the Eugene District 4J superintendent, our election endorsements — even if you disagreed, admit it, you read them. And rounding out the top five was Editor Camilla Mortensen’s ride-along with the Free Souls Motorcycle Club on their annual Rhody Run to the coast. For the full Top 15 (spoiler alert, the embezzlement stories were in there) go to EugeneWeekly.com.

>> You may have noticed that your favorite Victorian

Gothic bar is closed this week for some renovations. Don’t worry, ‘cause Old Nick’s will be reopening better than ever — with a new name to boot! — next week-end. **The newly named Sparrow and Serpent has its soft opening Jan. 10 with its monthly Chub Night (with DJ Enrique, Damnit!) and hosts its grand opening on Jan. 11.** Goth post-punk band Shadowhouse performs at 8 pm Jan. 11 followed by DJs Barbie Saint, John the Revelator, Spidersound and Vampire Sister. “The bar is going to look so cool,” owner Emily Chappell says. “Picture you walk into a Victorian-styled pub that’s been around since Medieval times. The idea will be that it’s supposed to look like it’s been around for hundreds of years.”

>> The death at age 100 of 39th president Jimmy Carter reminds us how much we value those who use their power and influence for good in the world. Carter won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 “for his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development.” Together with wife, Rosalynn, who died in 2023 (quick, somebody tell Texas Gov. Greg Abbott), Jimmy Carter volunteered one week a year for Habitat for Humanity until 2020. Meanwhile our president-elect found out this week that a federal appeals court upheld a jury’s finding in a civil case that he sexually abused a columnist in an upscale department store dressing room in the mid-1990s. Nice.



ABELIO CARILLO CHALAS, A MAM FROM TODOS SANTOS, GUATEMALA, MOVED TO OREGON WITH HIS MOM IN 2014 WHEN HE WAS 13 YEARS OLD. HE NOW WORKS WITH THE RURAL ORGANIZING PROJECT IN COTTAGE GROVE. Photo by Josiah Pensado

The Mam of Oregon

An essay on the new nomads of American society

BY MELVIN BRAVO

How many newcomers need to come to our country intending to stay before we see them as future citizens rather than “immigrants?” Though they come from many parts of the world, do we place them all under the same demographic umbrella? And once they’ve arrived, it may be hard to see where these people come from and notice certain differences. They are often viewed under one simple label, “immigrant.”

Here in Oregon, a community of people called Mam, an Indigenous group from northern Guatemala, are exemplifying and giving way to that idea. Perhaps as the new nomads of American society.

Throughout the years, Oregon has seen a gradual increase in the Mam community, mostly in Newport and the Cottage Grove areas. Speaking a Mayan language only a handful of the population know, their vernacular has demonstrated the challenges that people go through coming into a new country. However, some individuals and groups have helped along the way, not just helping them adjust but giving them their rightful representation.

“Guatemalans began to come to Oregon in the 1970s, fleeing the civil war,” Lynn Stephen says, referring to the Guatemalan civil war that lasted 36 years and killed over 200,000 people.

Stephen is a professor of anthropology at the University of Oregon and has worked with the Indigenous communities throughout Latin America living in diaspora, which in most cases are people fleeing their countries due to civil war, gang violence or domestic abuse, and coming to the U.S. seeking asylum.

The Guatemalan War created a mass genocide against the Maya people and their government, leaving millions to leave their homes, in most cases families, and head to North America to find refuge. But it also created a history of violence for those left behind. In some instances, domestic abuse without the help of family.

As Stephen’s work points out, she’s worked on individual cases with women fleeing the country because of domestic abuse and has done extensive research with transnational immigrants moving into the country.

“We kind of did oral history interviews of these women who wanted to file asylum cases,” Stephen says. “Because you have to create something called ‘the Declaration,’ which is your story about what happened to you and why you’re seeking asylum.”

She is referring to the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection, an executive action issued by President Joe Biden in 2022.

Under this new executive action, a person from another country goes through a “credible fear interview.” This involves an immigration officer asking a line of questions about why they’re seeking asylum in the country. If the officer deems the story credible, then that person will be able to go in front of a judge and start presenting their case.

However, not everyone reports these instances of domestic abuse, and some in the Mam community remain under the social radar.

“My dad was super violent, he left us with my mom when I was only six years old, and he was threatening to kill her if she didn’t leave the house,” says Abelio Carillo Chalas, a Mam from Todos Santos, Guatemala.

Chalas moved to Oregon with his mom in 2014 when he was 13 years old, hoping to find a better life in the U.S. He works with the Rural Organizing Project in Cottage Grove, a grassroots organization that helps the community with local projects and people from other countries settle in.

“When I got here I was in middle school, but it was really challenging,” Chalas says. He recalls how difficult it was for him and his mom to go out and participate with others then, there were only a small handful of people speaking and translating Spanish, and no one really spoke Mam.

Because Mam is an Indigenous language that comes from different areas throughout Central America, it can create a barrier for people like Chalas and his family here in the States. Among the languages spoken by immigrants that come into the U.S. the one ranking the highest is Spanish, according to a study done by the Pew Research Center.

However, like the Mam people of Guatemala, there’s a handful of Indigenous languages that are spoken in Oregon. But due to obstacles and certain limits that the state provides, in most cases, these Indigenous groups get categorized as Spanish speakers.

“The majority of them do speak Spanish, not as their first language, but many of them understand it,” Alex Llumiquinga says. He is a program manager at Arcoiris Cultural, a cultural center that supports the Latin American community in Lincoln City and Newport, including the Mam. Llumiquinga has been working with the Mam community for over a decade, helping them not just translate but also find their way into society.

Arcoiris Cultural, together with Olalla Center, has been providing services for the Lincoln County area since 1978. Groups like this and others like Pueblo Unido and Peggy’s Primary Connection in Cottage Grove try to provide a safe place for people that come from Latin American countries and don’t speak Spanish as their first language. However, because there’s a limit with interpreters in the state many migrants face barriers with medical care, education and even finding work.

“The Newport area is interesting because a lot of them coming here are cultivating a plant called salal,” Llumiquinga says. “It’s one of the main industries of the Mam population that comes here.”

Salal is a native plant or shrub that grows throughout the Pacific Northwest, and is sold in floral shops for decoration and bouquets. Llumiquinga says the plant is cultivated by most immigrants who live in Oregon, and most men in the Mam community start working there.

According to one of Lynn Stephen’s research projects, “Un Estados de Inmigrantes, Inmigrantes de Guatemala en Oregon: Solicitando Asilo y Sobreviviendo al Covid-19” (The State of Immigrants, Guatemalans in Oregon: Seeking Asylum, Surviving Covid-19), workers were paid an earning wage of about \$2.25 per bunch in the summer

of 2020. However, that number went down to \$1.75 by March 2021, and depending on the price and the day’s haul, their earnings would range from \$87.50-\$100 a day.

“It’s not really a good pay unless you’ve been doing this for a while and know where to look for the plant,” Mauricia Cardona says. She’s a Mam translator and works with Llumiquinga at Arcoiris.

Cardona and her family, which included her father and younger sister of 11, are Mam that came from Guatemala. Together they would pick salal, pine cones and other various plants throughout Bend. She recalls living with 15 people in a house and would work long days just to make ends meet for her family.

She now lives in Newport with her husband and daughter and works with Llumiquinga at Arcoiris, helping families settle in and finding different resources they might need.

As of 2016, a survey by the Oregon Community Foundation together with Oregon State University, tracked and found that almost half a million Latinos live in Oregon, with those numbers growing or unaccounted for according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Along with those numbers an average of 20.2 percent of Latino babies were born between 2020-2022, according to PeriStats, a data center through the March of Dimes that keeps track of perinatal births.

For many in the Mam community, particularly the women, they come to the U.S. seeking an alternative to health care and medicine for their children. Although for many the experience can be volatile.

“I was hungry, they gave us food, but it was cold and we in Guatemala eat hot things and drink hot water,” an anonymous mother says in *Cultures of Birth*, a documentary released in 2023 by Nuturely, a nonprofit working on perinatal health disparities in the Eugene community.

The movie reflects and compares Mayan mothers and their perinatal experience both in the U.S. and Guatemala. It interviews various Mam women in Oregon and conveys a personal story of some of the inequities that people go through giving birth.

“I actually had the opportunity to live and work alongside midwives (*comadronas*) in Todo Santos,” says Emily Little, founder and executive director of Nuturely. “Most importantly, from a perspective of racial equity and social inclusion.”

The documentary also shares some of the traditions that the Mam people have both before and after giving birth. Like giving birth at home with *comadronas*, eating only hot foods, staying at home and healing for a month, and getting *temazcal* baths.

Temazcal is a type of sweat lodge that people build and use to heal the body and soul. In this case, the lodge is filled with water and stones and a fire heats up to warm the bath. The recent mom then will bathe every eight days in this water with various herbs and plants to wash them.

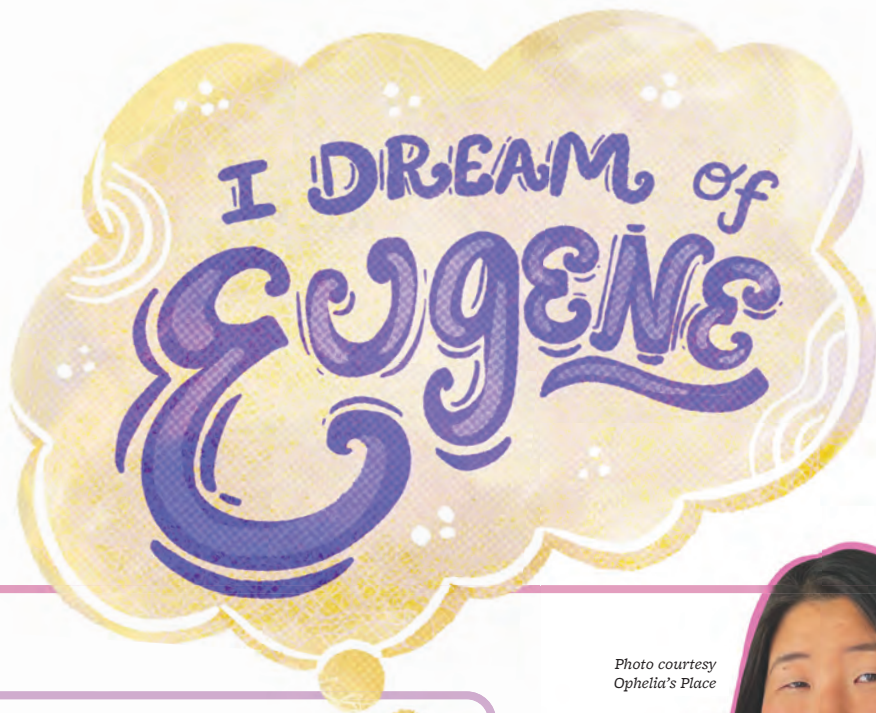
However, for many of the moms in the Mam community, they found that they still needed modern medicine, and Nuturely helps these groups of women with their birthing experience.

“Being able to just see, as an outsider, how these practices are so critical for pregnancy and postpartum health in this thriving community from Guatemala, where *comadronas* lead the community based health care, where the community supports postpartum healing is so foundational,” Little says.

The story of the Mam community has no definitive ending. Like most immigrant stories, theirs will take time to develop and hopefully grow. One thing is certain though, that progress in this country is seen through the help of its community. To take the time and effort in helping your neighbor no matter where they come from. That “immigrant” isn’t just a word or label, but an actual experience and background that deserves our attention and care.

Those in the Mam community not only demonstrate this but are the results of the present-day immigrant. A race with its own culture, tradition and values. And hopefully with time, the word “immigrant” won’t just be a stigma, but a celebration to their name.

Melvin Bravo is a first generation immigrant and Eugene Weekly intern.



Dreams of Eugene, Lane County and Oregon's future

BY EW STAFF

As 2025 kicks off, rather than just be filled with trepidation, *Eugene Weekly* decided to bring back an annual tradition of filling our pages with dreams. So we asked folks in the community and *Weekly* writers to send us their dreams.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MCKENZIE YOUNG-ROY

I dream of social housing

Greg Coburn, co-author of *Homelessness is a Housing Problem*, revealed a stunning statistic on his recent visit to Eugene. In many European nations, 15 to 30 percent of housing is owned by the public. In the U.S., it is less than 1 percent. He also told us that with our high cost of housing and vacancy rates below 2 percent, we are guaranteed to have high rates of homelessness no matter what we do on auxiliary issues like mental health, addiction and poverty if we do not address the systemic issues of housing availability and cost.

A promising solution to this growing crisis is the concept of “social housing,” developed in Vienna after World War I. With rents one third of comparable cities, this model of housing is one of the major factors that has contributed to Vienna’s designation as the world’s most livable city by *The Economist* for the last three years. Think not of “public housing” for low-income households, but housing owned by various public entities (nonprofits, community land trusts, housing authorities) with a mix of income levels where a bank executive might live next door to a person living on disability income, each paying rent according to their income. By taking the housing out of the private market, it ceases to be a commodity in which the price is set by the market and instead becomes a public good maintained for the benefit of all. May Eugene become the Vienna of the U.S.! — *Dan Bryant, EW columnist, retired pastor and former director of SquareOne Villages*



Photo by Todd Cooper

Photo courtesy Ophelia's Place



A dream of collaboration

My hope for Eugene and Lane County is to see more nonprofits, businesses and community members coming together to collaborate over shared goals and needs in our communities. Collective community care will be one important way that our nation and local area will navigate ongoing challenges, especially challenges that impact women and girls, people of color, immigrants, members of the LGBTQIA+ community and those with disabilities.

Additionally, my hope is that all girls and youth in Eugene and beyond will have the foundation, connection and trusted allies they need to discover themselves, rise above challenges and flourish. More than ever before, girls and youth need access to social-emotional wellness and mental health support. They need a community that’s safe and will uplift them. I hope to see our community come together and center youth — not just to listen to their concerns, but to follow their leads, their ideas, their passion and their voices. — *Laura Sanchez, executive director, Ophelia's Place*

A Dream of No Need to Feed

My dream for Eugene is for our citizenry and city, county and state government to follow through on their commitments and promises.

I dream of more meals and services for the unhoused, safe car camping lots for those forced out of their homes into their cars, parking rules that don’t tow your car because you were in court or the hospital at an \$800 expense to reclaim your car, a city-sponsored no barrier shelter for the unhoused, mental health care and a hospital and



Photo via X

better medical services in Eugene proper.

I dream of compassion for our citizens and those who serve them. Our city, county, state and federal representatives campaign about their concern for those in need. Those of us serving the actual people in need on the streets see a disconnect between government intention and inaction.

I dream that we can connect our goals for humanity with the service of integrity and action. As a leader with Neighbors Feeding Neighbors, I dream that we can close up shop because we have helped every neighbor and found them the support, services and housing that they needed.

I dream that our new nonprofit will someday not have a reason to exist because we have helped everyone to have a safe home, food and health care.

I dream that we can love our neighbors, care for them, see them and walk with them to have a better life. — *Lisa Levsen, Neighbors Feeding Neighbors lead organizer and board member*

Dream of better news media and a stronger justice system

We must water the roots of democracy by strengthening the free press and legal system that protects our freedoms and rights. We must open the doors wide to educate people with the tool of media forums featuring a variety of contributors who can further that goal by educating readers with their scholarly background and the rule of law which governs us all.

Today is clearly no time to shrink the role of the free press. Why are major news outlets being increasingly purchased by billionaires, one might ask. Would it be possible for *Eugene Weekly* to grow into a daily edition? Or for *The Register-Guard* to add an opinion section to its daily editions, or tap into the expertise of our own University of Oregon faculty as guest contributors?

Those are my wishes. “Veritas” is the object. — *Tom Coffin, retired U.S. magistrate judge and EW columnist*



Photo by Todd Cooper

I Dream of Eugene



Photo by Laura Henry

The Lavender Network was born in 2024 as a series of dreams

When we found the name, a remnant of queer life from the 1980s and 1990s and received permission to carry on their legacy, we dreamed with the history of local LGBTQ+ people in mind.

When the leadership team, comprised of five different organizations, made the plan to collaborate as The Lavender Network, we dreamed of safety and celebration, of offering respite and providing connection.

We dreamed of a Eugene where people of all genders and sexualities are included and supported at all levels of society. When we gathered a council of LGBTQ+ community members to give us feedback and direction, they dreamed of gender refugee programs, of intergenerational queer connection, of medical and social support.

And when we took our questions to the Eugene Pride Festival and asked the people, “What are your needs?” they told us their dreams of queer karaoke, of all ages and sober-friendly activity spaces, of support groups for every aspect of queer life.

We dream of a Eugene, of a Lane County, with more than just a streak of lavender. We want love, acceptance and safety for all members of our community. And we dream of a world where this is more than just a dream. — Laura Henry, The Lavender Network manager

Dreaming of bringing back taxes — especially for the rich

I dream that Eugene might once again become a community that deeply supports the arts. We need a municipal art museum downtown. We need a place where artists can afford to rent studio space and where small galleries can cluster. We need a 1,200-seat performing hall with great acoustics. But this isn’t just a job for the city. Imagine a public school system that requires literacy in both music and visual art — perhaps by requiring students to draw or paint a competent picture and perform on a musical instrument — to graduate. That would mean art and music classes every year, K-12.

All this means money, of course. Let’s dump Measure 5, raise taxes, mostly for people who can afford to pay them, and actually educate our children. Once we get the arts in place, let’s re-fund law enforcement, set better police policies, and make the city a safe place to enjoy the arts without having your bike stolen and your car windows smashed. Every dollar would be money well spent. — Bob Keefer, arts editor emeritus at Eugene Weekly



Photo courtesy Bob Keefer



Photo by Virginia Watkins

Dreaming of cleanliness and art

In the four years I have lived in Eugene, I don’t think the city has grown on me; I’ve lost interest and much of the joy of living here has eroded. However, there is a caveat in that the people here inspire me to come back — plus my educational obligations. I wish the city matched the people I care for and their loveliness.

My dream for Eugene is one of cleanliness and art. Notably, my time in Japan is the route for this desire. Japan is full of lovely cities, with music and people, but clean streets. People can fall asleep drunk on the sidewalk without fear of theft or assault. There’s no need to feel unease at night. This is my hope for our little town.

I wish for the homeless and those fighting against their drug ailments to be helped. I wish my female friends didn’t feel uneasy walking around downtown. I wish people didn’t have to live in camps under constant surveillance.

Once we have that clean, comfortable stability, then I’d hope for more live music. More walls that showcase local art. More cafés where I can leisurely sip coffee and read the weekly tabloid.

Because clean doesn’t have to mean gentrified; it can mean safe and pretty and welcoming. I wish Eugene was somewhere I wanted to settle, but that’s a lofty dream right now. Thankfully, my optimistic friends outweigh my pessimism. — Mason Falor, EW intern

I dream of felt and support

I dream of where a frugal Benthamite hippie crafts-person can afford modest apartment, two meals a day, basic health care delivered economically by Charnelton Clinic and White Bird counseling, and where twice a month people throng to Kesey Square to learn the earth-friendly, kinesthetically satisfying hobby of feltmaking. — Joi Cardinal, felt artist and 2024 SLUG queen candidate



Photo courtesy Joi Cardinal

I Dream of Eugene



The Big Dream

I dream Eugeneans will make up their minds that “college town” no longer means “great football games and wild parties.” I dream we refuse to keep on fiddling while Eugene burns.

I dream everyone will wake up to how the unaffordability of college builds a wall between degree and no-degree Eugeneans, that it partitions our jobs, neighborhoods and lived realities. I dream students will throw off their resigned acceptance of the lie that college is nothing more than an esoteric quest for a meaningless credential that lands a high-paying job.

I dream the six campuses in Eugene will all become places where everyone learns to learn, where students are inoculated against every kind of disinformation, where newly minted adults seize the opportunity to feed their curiosity on subjects ranging from journalism to jazz to Jesus. I dream a wave of healthy, proud determination comes pouring off those campuses to roll back the damage of social media and erect shatterproof guardrails around artificial intelligence.

I dream a generation is nurtured from late adolescence into full adulthood in a human-scale community of peers excited by ideas and confident enough to test each other’s reasoning. I dream they find the shiniest thing on their phone crude and repulsive compared to any nearby human face. I dream they train themselves and one another to argue together and work through wickedly stubborn problems like housing and the needs of the unhoused.

I dream they rebuild Eugene and turn outward to take on the world.

— Doyle Srader, who has taught emerging adults public speaking and other comparably terrifying topics, including the occasional lesson about Jesus since 2007

Dreaming of disagreement and dialogue

As the editor of a newspaper, I’m not sure I’m looking forward to 2025 and a president who despises the media. But *Eugene Weekly* is never one to back down from a challenge.

I dream of this newspaper continuing to be a voice in this community, and giving people in this community a voice. I dream of the *Weekly* growing, with more pages of news and as a place where people can read, learn, discuss and disagree, as well as laugh and have fun.

— Camilla Mortensen, editor Eugene Weekly

Photo by Athena Delene



Photo by Todd Cooper



Dreams as two gifts

GIFT ONE: HUMILITY

On the precipice of a new era, one thing that Eugene has always held onto is a lack of humility. We believe in humility — we believe in a lot of things, but the practice of them seems to be lost in a culture of bypassing: Bypassing anything that may be difficult, may be rooted in conflict of some sort, or may just be downright brand new. We are skilled in a good

amount of things, but facing truths that challenge ease is not one of them. We do know that challenge is generally the first few iteration of change.

So, maybe it’s change that Eugene has a hard time with? The idea of this or that is very prevalent in practice. I wish for Eugene the courage to embrace a change that brings back the best of our history. The future can embrace what history has taught us while holding a newness with more wisdom. A narrative of a fear of open conflict, privilege hiding behind defensiveness, a personal right to comfort and deep paternalism are rooted in the troubled culture of white supremacy. Conflict does not mean doom. Conflict can be an opportunity if it’s held with humility, transparency and reciprocity grounded in respect.

GIFT TWO: GROUNDING

Eugene holds a wonderment for some, and a cage for others. The wonderment comes from its natural beauty and ease of a life held together by what naturally occurs when water is clean, air is mostly pure and trees are respected. The cage comes from the people who believe that is because of them, and that they are at one with this Earth yet deny the rights and freedoms of each person sharing the space and the bounty of this wonderment.

The avoidance of accountability in the staunch rebuttal of someone’s right to an opinion. It is sad to note that facts and historical context is cherry picked to fit a storyline that supports this delusion. Facts and historical context can feed creativity and inclusive innovation, yet instead we have a white knuckle grip on staying the same.

Delusion in a land of wonderment is a misunderstanding of how nature works. Our communities’ practices, access and “norms” are based on privilege and racism. With the population mostly identifying as white, the culture certainly insists on whiteness as the standard. Which means whiteness is maintaining this untethered sense of togetherness based in bypassing truths in regards to that privilege and access.

So my wish for Eugene is grounding. I wish for us to finally come out of the clouds and look at ourselves and ask how am I accountable for what hasn’t changed, and work deeply on self awareness to dismantle the cage you unconsciously keep locked for others. — Ayisha Elliott, *Black Girl from Eugene* and EW columnist

what's happening

Dancing with you since 1982.



PITCH BLACK MASS Photo courtesy of WOW Hall

JAN 4

Nothing says community building quite like metal music, and WOW Hall is offering you the opportunity to give back and kick ass on Saturday, Jan. 4, with its **Metal for Meals** event. **New World Sinner**, a four-person brutal American metal band from Eugene; **Pitch Black Mass**, an Oregon-based four-person heavy metal band; **Against the Raging Tide**, a five-person metal band from Newport; **Gamma Knife**, a Eugene-based four-person groove metal band; and **Atomic Terror**, a four-person thrash metal group from Portland, will combine forces for one massive head-banging performance. There are three ways to pay: in advance, at the door or with some food. If you bring at least three nonperishable food items — such as canned goods — to the door of WOW Hall when you purchase your ticket, you'll get a discount on the ticket price and the food will be donated directly to FOOD For Lane County, a nonprofit food bank aimed at bringing an end to hunger in Lane County. What's more metal than that? — *Emma J Nelson*

Metal for Meals is 7:30 pm Saturday, Jan. 4, at WOW Hall, 291 West 8th Avenue. Doors open at 7 pm. Tickets are \$12 in advance at WOWHall.org; \$15 at door or \$10 at door with three nonperishable food items for donation to FOOD For Lane County.

January 2

THURSDAY

Benefits

Bingo Night for CASA of Lane County, 7-9pm, Twisted Duck, 533 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd.

Food/Drink

Pizza & Pint, 4-9pm, Drop Bear Brewery, 2690 Willamette. \$18.

Thirsty Thursday, 4pm, 255 Madison, 255 Madison St. FREE.

Gatherings

Hearing Voices & Different Realities Discussion & Support Group, 1-2:30pm, Trauma

Healing Project, 631 E. 19th Ave., bldg. B. FREE.

Non-Violent Communication Open Practice Group, 7-9pm, McNail-Riley House, 601 W. 13th Ave. FREE.

Kids/Family

Family Storytime, 10:15am, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd. FREE.

Sensory Storytime, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Hoodoo's Winterventure, 6-8pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

NAMI Family Support Group, 7-8:30pm, NAMI Lane County, 129 9th St., Spfd. FREE.

Lectures/Classes

Hablemos Español: Spanish Conversation, 4-5pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Literary Arts

Writing Time, 2:30-5pm, Wordcrafters Studio, 436 Charnelton St., ste. 100. \$5.

Music

Open Blues Jam w/ Dave Roberts, 6pm, Jimmy Mac's Overtime Bar & Grill, 770 S. Bertelsen Rd. N/C.

Tyler Weiss, singer-songwriter, 7-9pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. N/C.

Funk Night Eugene, 9pm, Luckey's Club, 933 Olive St. N/C.

Nightlife

Shelbyville Trivia w/ Brett, 6:30-8:30pm, Viking Brewing West, 520 Commercial St., unit F. FREE.

FWD Trivia, 7pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave. FREE.

Karaoke, 7:30-11:30pm, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd. FREE.

Outdoors/Recreation

Gentle Chair Yoga w/ Clark Stacer, noon-1pm, St. Thomas Episcopal Fellowship Hall, 1465 Coburg Rd. Sug. don. \$8.

Teens

Mario Kart Tournament, 4pm, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd. FREE.

January 3

FRIDAY

Art/Craft

First Friday Art Walk w/ Gloria Udosenata, 5pm, PLAY Eugene, 232 W. 5th St. FREE.

First Friday ArtWalk, 5:30-8pm, Farmers Market Pavilion, 85 E. 8th Ave. FREE.

New Zone 40th: First Friday Opening Reception, 5:30-8pm,

New Zone Gallery, 110 E. 11th Ave., ste. C. FREE.

Civics

Boosting Mental Health in Schools & Communities: Oregon Mind Body Institute/Attune Ed, noon-1:15pm, WOW Hall, 291 W. 8th Ave.

Kids/Family

Family Storytime, 10:15am, Sheldon Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1566 Coburg Rd. FREE.

Preschool Storytime, 10:30am, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Make a No-Sew Heat Pad, 3pm, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd. FREE.

Lectures/Classes

First Friday at the Museum, 10am-5pm, Museum of Natural & Cultural History, 1680 E. 15th Ave. FREE.

Tech Help, 11am-noon, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd. FREE.

Djembe Drumming for Beginners, 3:30-4:30pm, Djembe Trading Post, 1740 W. 10th Ave. \$10.

Preserving The Harvest: Fermenting Sauerkraut, 6-7pm, Made By You, 715 Main St., Spfd. \$40.

Music

Harlan Rivers, Americana, classic rock, soul, 6-9pm, Coast Fork Brewing & Feed Store, Cottage Grove. N/C.

Olem Alves Jazz Trio, 6-8pm, The Davis Restaurant & Bar, 94 W. Broadway. N/C.

Boxcar Figaro, Americana, 7-9pm, Drop Bear Brewery, 2690 Willamette. N/C.

Sassafras!, roots rock, Americana, Celtic, 7-9pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

David Morgenroth Trio, jazz, 7:30-10pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$20.

Outlandish d'Amour, The Police tribute, 7:30pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave. N/C.

Coupe de Ville, classic rock, 8pm-midnight, The Embers, 1811 State Hwy 99 N. N/C.

Spiritual

Recovery Dharma Buddhist Recovery Meeting, 10-11:30am, Jesco Club, 340 Blair Blvd. FREE.

January 4

SATURDAY

Art/Craft

Paint & Sip: Sunny, Snowy Day, 3-5pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St., ste. 104. \$45.

Paint & Sip: Snowflake, 6:30-8:30pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St., ste. 104. \$45.

Gatherings

Trans & Allies Social Hour, 10am-noon, Theo's Coffee House, 199 W. 8th Ave., ste. 1. FREE.

Psychedelic Film, Discussion Circle & Library Browsing, noon-2pm, EDELIC Ctr., 631 E. 19th Ave., bldg. B. FREE.

Kids/Family

Family Storytime, 9:45am & 10:30am & 11:15am, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Baby & Toddler Storytime, 10:15am, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd. FREE.

Builders & Makers, 3-5pm, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd. FREE.

Lectures/Classes

Djembe Drumming for Beginners, 1-2pm, Djembe Trading Post, 1740 W. 10th Ave. \$10.

Building Healthy Soil: Structure & Types, 4-5:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Music

Bootleg Rose, alt folk, 6-8pm, Viking Brewing West, 520 Commercial St., unit F. N/C.

Sassafras!, roots rock, Americana, Celtic, 6pm, Oakshire Public House, 207 Madison St. N/C.

Whiskey & Rain Band, bluegrass, Americana, 6:30-8:30pm, Friendly Garden, 2758 Friendly St. N/C.

Shuttleworth, Baxter, Mastrogiovanni, jazz, 7:30-10pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$20.

The Hot Coles, funk, reggae, blues, 7:30-9:30pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. N/C.

The Jazz Symbiosis Trio, 7:30pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave. N/C.

Coupe de Ville, classic rock, 8pm-midnight, The Embers, 1811 State Hwy 99 N. N/C.

Where would you be without this free paper to help your animal friends make it through life?

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Outdoors/Recreation

Finding Your Light in January w/ Original Goat Yoga, 2-3pm, No Regrets Flower Farm & Animal Sanctuary, 26641 Bellfountain Rd., Monroe. \$37.

Spiritual

River Wisdom Insight Member-led Meditation, 9:45-11am, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W. 13th Ave. FREE-\$10.

Full-day Meditation, 10am-4pm, The Ctr. for Sacred Sciences, 5440 Saratoga St. FREE.

Theater

Up In Smoke, 8-11pm, The Hybrid Gallery, 941 W. 3rd Ave. \$10-12.

January 5 SUNDAY

Art/Craft

Paint & Sip: Polar Bear, 2-4pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St., ste. 104. \$35.

Gatherings

Sunday Gathering, 10:30-11:30am, The Center, 390 Vernal St. FREE.

Kids/Family

Family Fun w/ LEGO, 1-4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Literary Arts

Writing Time, 6:30-9pm, Wordcrafters Studio, 436 Charnelton St., ste. 100. \$5.

Music

Eunhye Grace Choi & Jacqueline Cordova-Arrington, classical, 3-4:30pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$25.

RWMcCabe Studios: Open Mic, 4-7pm, Coldfire Brewing Co., 263 Mill St. N/C.

EastSide Sunday Jam, 5pm, Twisted River Saloon, 1444 Main St., Spfd. N/C.

Open Mic, 5:30-8:30pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

Nightlife

Bingo, 5:30pm, Drop Bear Brewery, 2690 Willamette. FREE.

Outdoors/Recreation

Finding Your Light in January w/ Original Goat Yoga, 2-3pm, No Regrets Flower Farm & Animal Sanctuary, 26641 Bellfountain Rd., Monroe. \$37.

Spiritual

Faith & Reliance in God, 10-11:30am, Baha'i Ctr. of Eugene, 1458 Alder St. FREE.

Nondual Teachings, 11am-1pm, The Ctr. for Sacred Sciences, 5440 Saratoga St. FREE.

Emerald Valley Ctr. for Spiritual Living, 4pm, Hilyard Community Ctr., 2580 Hilyard St. Don.

January 6 MONDAY

Gatherings

Afternoon Chess, 4-6pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

Death Cafe, 6:30-8pm, Shelton McMurphey Johnson House, 303 Willamette. FREE.

Lectures/Classes

OLLI-UO Winter Term Expo, 10:30am-noon, UO Baker Downtown Ctr., 975 High St. FREE.

Music

First Monday Night Big Band, 7-9:30pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$15.

Nightlife

Bingo w/ Ty Connor, 6:30pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

Cribbage Night, 6:30-8:30pm, Coldfire Brewing Co., 263 Mill St. \$3.

Game & Movie Night, 8-10pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

January 7 TUESDAY

Film

Eno (2024), 7pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$15.

Food/Drink

Toast to Tuesdays, 4pm, 255 Madison, 255 Madison St. FREE.

Gatherings

Sign Up for Free Notary, 5pm Jan. 7-noon Jan. 8, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Kids/Family

Baby Storytime, 9:45am & 10:30am, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Tweens: Gamer Brains, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Lectures/Classes

Tech Help, 2-3pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library, 100 W. 10th Ave. FREE.

Flora & Feathers: How Birds & Plants Depend On Each Other, 7-8:45pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W. 13th Ave. FREE.

Literary Arts

Writing Time, 9:30am-noon, Wordcrafters Studio, 436 Charnelton St., ste. 100. \$5.

TransPonder Book Club, 5-6pm. Email Info@TransPonder.Community for link. FREE.

Nightlife

Trivia & Tacos, 6:30-8pm, Tallman Brewing, 2055 Primrose St., Lebanon. FREE.

Trivia Tuesday, 7-9pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

Outdoors/Recreation

Gentle Chair Yoga w/ Clark Stacer, noon-1pm, St. Thomas Episcopal Fellowship Hall, 1465 Coburg Rd. Sug. don. \$8.

Social Dance

Latin Dance w/ DJ Vito, 7pm, PLAY Eugene, 232 W. 5th St. FREE.

January 8 WEDNESDAY

Art/Craft

Cat Paint Pen Party, 6-7:15pm, Eugene Spfd. Cat Lounge, 537 W. Centennial Blvd. \$30.

Civics

What Should Masculinity Mean? A Community Philosophy Discussion, 6pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Film

To Have and Have Not (1944), 1-3pm, Willamalane Adult Activity Ctr., 215 W. C St., Spfd. FREE.

Eno (2024), 7pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$15.

Ghostbusters (1984), 7-10pm, Whiteside Theatre, 461 SW Madison Ave., Corvallis. \$8-10.

Survivor Season 16 Watch Party, 7:30-10pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

Food/Drink

Summer Fest in January, all day, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

Gatherings

Men's Talking Stick Circle, 6-8pm, Stargate Lotus Room, 1374 Willamette. FREE.

Kids/Family

Toddler Storytime, 9:45am & 10:30am, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Collage an I-Spy Game, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.



Photo courtesy of Vito and Courtney Garcia

JAN 7 & 21 Taco Tuesday never had it so good. Experience the extra spice of salsa dancing and more when **Latin Dance with DJ Vito** takes over PLAY Eugene Jan. 7. Besides the sensual movements of Cuban salsa, DJ Vito will take requests for timba, bachata and merengue music as well. He will play to the crowd. “I like to read the energy of the audience,” he says, and he has a vast amount of Latin music to choose from. “He spends many, many hours listening to music,” notes Courtney Garcia, DJ Vito’s wife who, along with her husband, co-owns Azúcar! Cuban Dance y Más in Eugene. “Each event has different music,” she says. Latin dance music took root for DJ Vito while growing up in the Mexican state of Oaxaca. Upon entering the United States in his mid-20s, DJ Vito aimed to spread the lively and dynamic art that is Latin dancing, including a class at the University of Oregon attended by his future wife. “I pretty much learned dancing from Vito,” says Garcia, who was a grad student at the time. The two struck up a friendship, fell in love and were married in 2011. Azúcar! Cuban Dance y Más opened soon afterward, and DJ Vito has been spreading the joy of Latin dancing ever since. — Dan Buckwalter

Latin Dance with DJ Vito is Tuesday, Jan. 7 and Tuesday, Jan. 21 at PLAY Eugene, 232 West 5th Avenue. An introductory beginner lesson is at 7 pm, followed by social dancing from 8 pm to 10 pm. After 9 pm, it's 21-plus. FREE. Latin Dance with DJ Vito also is Jan. 14 and Jan. 28 at Cowfish Cafe and Lounge, 62 West Broadway, with the same 7 pm start and an \$8 cover. More information about Azúcar! Cuban Dance y Más, including class and event schedules, is at EugeneCubanSalsa.com.

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Cartoon Library & Museum

‘IT’S (STILL) A MAGICAL WORLD, HOBBS OL’ BUDDY’

*The Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art
presents the first exhibition of original
Calvin and Hobbes artwork curated
outside artist Bill Watterson’s home state*

BY SADIE GUSTAVSON

Ask anyone you know, young or old, and they probably have memories of laughing at the antics of an adventurous 6-year-old boy named Calvin and his sardonic yet philosophical tiger friend, Hobbes, in Bill Watterson’s *Calvin and Hobbes*. Since its inception nearly 40 years ago, *Calvin and Hobbes* has asked its readers to question reality through lighthearted and humorous storytelling and has established itself as one of the most beloved comic strips of all time.

Until Feb. 2, Oregonians have a rare opportunity to see original Calvin and Hobbes artwork at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at the University of Oregon.

All of Watterson’s original *Calvin and Hobbes* artwork, aside from a few that he kept, have lived at the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum at Ohio State University since the strip ended. Until now, Billy Ireland is the only museum that has ever curated exhibitions of *Calvin and Hobbes* strips.

The exhibition at JSMA, *It’s (Still) A Magical World, Hobbes, Ol’ Buddy* is curated by associate professor of Comics and Cartoon studies at the University of Oregon, Kate Kelp-Stebbins. When Kelp-Stebbins first went to the Billy Ireland and asked the directors if she could do a *Calvin and Hobbes* show in Oregon, their response was “No way. Bill always says no. He’s very secretive. He doesn’t meet anyone. He doesn’t do anything like that,” she says.

In the years that the strip ran, Watterson fought the Universal Press Syndicate for the rights to his characters. Kelp-Stebbins says he turned down millions if not billions of dollars to prevent his beloved characters from turning into bumper stickers, stuffed animals and T-shirt designs.

“His idea is really that it cheapens the art and it takes away from the beauty and the imagination of the work itself to make it into something that you can buy and sell,” Kelp-Stebbins says.

Because Watterson is a private

person and selective about the projects he is willing to be involved with, Kelp-Stebbins was shocked when the request to do the exhibit at JSMA was approved. “The fact that they reached out to Bill, and Bill said yes, was mind blowing. It had never happened before, and we never thought it was going to happen,” she says.

Jenny Robb, head curator of comics and cartoon art at the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum and caretaker of the Bill Watterson collection, says Watterson said yes because “he really does want people to have access to the original artwork and see it and engage with it.”

Kelp-Stebbins combed through all 3,300 available strips to select 33 for the exhibition — two daily strips and one Sunday strip from each year that comic ran, from 1985 to 1995. “We wanted to kind of show the progression of the strip, and also various themes, ways that it changed, ways that it stayed the same over time,” she says.

Since comic strips are intended to be reproduced in a newspaper, what you’re seeing is production art. Visitors can observe white out, sketch lines and erasure marks from Watterson’s hand that reveal the work behind every strip.

Walking through the exhibit, visitors not only get to experience a timeline of the original art but can also read about the history of the strip.

Kelp-Stebbins says she hopes people leave the exhibit with a sense of the world of wonder that makes *Calvin and Hobbes* so special. “Especially right now, when it’s a really hard time politically and socially, I really hope that people come in and get that imagination spark and think about what the world could be,” she says.

It’s (Still) A Magical World, Hobbes, Ol’ Buddy Selections of Original Art and Strips of Bill Watterson’s *Calvin and Hobbes*, 1985-1995, runs through Feb. 2 at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, 1430 Johnson Lane. Join Jenny Robb at the JSMA 5:30 pm Wednesday, Jan. 15, for a talk exploring Watterson’s masterful artistry and storytelling, the evolution of the strip, and his significance in the history of the art form.

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LANE. IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF HUNTER JAMES LINCOLN TOOZE, a minor child. Case No. 24APO0804 SUMMONS INDEPENDENT ADOPTION. TO JEFFREY ROBERT EIDE, Respondent, Home Address unknown. Work Address unknown. A Petition for Adoption of a Minor Child has been filed by the child’s grandparents asking that your parental rights be terminated and that the Petitioning grandparents become the legal parents of the child. If you do not file the appropriate legal paper with the Court in the time required (see below), the Petitioner may ask the Court for a Judgment against you that orders the relief requested. NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY! You must “appear” in this case or the other side will win automatically. To “appear,” you must file with the Court a legal paper called a “Response” or “Motion.” This paper must be given to the Court within thirty (30) days along with the required filing fee and a Request to Initiate or Waive Mediation Form. It must be in proper form and you must show that the petitioner’s attorney (or the petitioner if he/she does not have an attorney) was served with a copy of the “Response” or “Motion.” Response forms may be available through the court where the adoption Petition is filed, located at: PHYSICAL LOCATION: 125 E 8th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401. MAILING ADDRESS: 125 E 8th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401. If you have legal questions, you should seek an attorney immediately. If you need help finding an attorney, you may call the Oregon State Bar’s Lawyer Referral Service at (503) 684-3763 or toll free in Oregon at (800) 452-7636. Respondent is hereby notified of the Voluntary Adoption Registry at <https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/adoption/pages/registry.aspx>. First published on December 12th, 2024.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY Juvenile Department. In the Matter of LOUISE ALIDIA LEE MILLER, Minor Child. Case No. 24JU04746

PUBLISHED SUMMONS TO: Stevie Leigh Miller IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON: A petition has been filed asking the court to terminate your parental rights to the above-named child under ORS 419B.500, 419B.502, 419B.504, 419B.506 and/or 419B.508 for the purpose of placing the child for adoption. YOU ARE REQUIRED TO PERSONALLY APPEAR before the Lane County Court, 2727 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Eugene, OR 97401, on the 6th of February, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m. for a hearing on the allegations of the petition and to personally appear at any subsequent court-ordered hearing. YOU MUST APPEAR PERSONALLY in the courtroom on the date and at the time listed above. AN ATTORNEY MAY NOT ATTEND THE HEARING IN YOUR PLACE. THEREFORE, YOU MUST APPEAR EVEN IF YOUR ATTORNEY ALSO APPEARS. If you do not appear personally before the court as directed above, then you must appear on the 20th day of February, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the same address listed above. If you fail to appear for both of these dates or do not appear at any subsequent court-ordered hearing, the court may proceed in your absence and without further notice TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS to the above-named child either on the date specified in THIS SUMMONS OR ON A FUTURE DATE and may make such orders and take such action as authorized by law. This summons is published pursuant to the order of the circuit court judge of the above-entitled court, dated December 13, 2024. The order directs that this summons be published once each week for three consecutive weeks, making three publications in all, in a published newspaper of general circulation in Lane County, Oregon. Date of first publication: December 26, 2024 Date of last publication: January 9, 2025 NOTICE READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY IF YOU DO NOT APPEAR PERSONALLY BEFORE THE COURT OR DO NOT APPEAR AT ANY SUBSEQUENT COURT-ORDERED HEARING, the court may proceed in your absence without further notice and TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS to the above-named child either on the date specified in this summons or on a future date and may make such orders and take such action as authorized by law. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS (I) YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO BE REPRESENTED BY AN ATTORNEY IN THIS MATTER. If you are currently represented by an attorney, CONTACT YOUR ATTORNEY IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIVING THIS NOTICE. Your previous attorney may not be representing you in this matter. IF YOU WISH TO HIRE AN ATTORNEY, please retain one as soon as possible to represent you in this proceeding. If you need help finding an attorney, you may call the Oregon State Bar’s Lawyer Referral Service at (503) 684-3763 or toll free in Oregon at (800) 452-7636. IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO HIRE AN ATTORNEY and you meet the state’s financial guidelines, you are entitled to have an attorney appointed for you at state expense. TO REQUEST APPOINTMENT OF AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT YOU AT STATE EXPENSE, YOU MUST IMMEDIATELY CONTACT the Lane Court at 2727 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd and 541-682-4700 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. for further information. IF YOU ARE REPRESENTED BY AN

ATTORNEY, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH YOUR ATTORNEY AND TO KEEP YOUR ATTORNEY ADVISED OF YOUR WHEREABOUTS. (2) If you contest the petition, the court will schedule a hearing on the allegations of the petition and order you to appear personally and may schedule other hearings related to the petition and order you to appear personally. IF YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR, YOU MUST APPEAR PERSONALLY IN THE COURTROOM, UNLESS THE COURT HAS GRANTED YOU AN EXCEPTION IN ADVANCE under ORS 419B.918 to appear by other means including, but not limited to, telephonic or other electronic means. An attorney may not attend the hearing(s) in your place. PETITIONER’S ATTORNEY Marie Anders, OSB #102216 Assistant Attorney General Department of Justice 975 Oak St., Suite 200 Eugene, OR 97401 541-686-7973 ISSUED this 17th day of December, 2024 Issued by: Marie Anders, OSB #102216 Assistant Attorney General

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY Probate Department. In the Matter of the Estate of THELMA GRACE ORR, Deceased, Case No. 24PB05015. NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS-Notice is hereby given that Julia Orr has been appointed and has qualified as the personal representative of the estate. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present the same, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, to the personal representative at: Julia Orr, C/O Barry Davis, Attorney at Law, PO Box 5883, Eugene, OR 97405, or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative or the attorney for the personal representative. DATED AND FIRST PUBLISHED: December 19th, 2024. S/ Julia Orr, Personal Representative. Barry Davis, Attorney for Personal Representative, PO Box 5883, Eugene, OR 97405 (541)343-3656.

In The Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Lane. In the Matter of the Estate of HELEN CRYSTAL HARTMAN aka CRYSTAL HARTMAN, Deceased, Case No. 24PB07120. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the undersigned personal representative at Lonnie Leroy Hartman, c/o Dustin G. Anderson, Schulz Anderson LLC, 2451 Willamette Street, Eugene, Oregon 97405, within four months after the date of first publication, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the lawyer for the personal representative, Dustin G. Anderson, Schulz Anderson LLC, 2451 Willamette Street, Eugene, Oregon 97405. Dated and first published on January 2nd, 2025 Lonnie Leroy Hartman, Personal Representative December 27, 2024.

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SAVAGE Love

BY DAN SAVAGE

I'm a male in my late 60s with what I think is an unusual problem. My wife of almost 40 years and I have a good sex life and it's gotten better since the kids moved out. Every two or three days, I give my wife a neck and deep gluteal massage and then she gives me a blow job. Sometimes I manually stimulate her to orgasm, usually while I'm in her mouth. We both enjoy this routine, but in the past three or four years, she has occasionally wanted vaginal sex, which we used to have, and I can't get quite hard enough to perform. After I penetrate her, we have sex for a while, but I don't orgasm. When this happens, I wash myself and she gives me a blow job, but she's frustrated because she thinks the problem is her when the problem is all mine. She worries I don't find her attractive anymore, which couldn't be further from the truth. I've tried three prescription medicines, but none helped.

I think that my problem is that I've always enjoyed oral sex more than vaginal sex, so I have no problems getting erections for oral sex, and I don't get quite as excited when we have vaginal sex. She has suggested that I contact a psychologist who specializes in sex therapy, but they're expensive and I don't think they will be any help. Any suggestions?

— Blow Jobs Often Better

The problem isn't that you don't find your wife of 40 years attractive — the double negative was impossible to avoid — but that you've always found oral sex more arousing, e.g., oral was always likelier to get you there. And it may not be as simple as a strong preference anymore: sex acts/positions/narratives that were arousing enough to get you all the way there at 30 — things that made you hard and kept you hard enough to get you off — may not be arousing enough to get you hard, keep you hard, etc., at age 60. Meanwhile, BJOB, your wife wants to get PIV into regular rotation because... well, I can only speculate. Maybe vaginal intercourse is more pleasurable for her. Maybe she wants to look into your eyes once in a while. Maybe, after nearly 40 years, she's done sucking your cock. (It happens.) And just as it's gotten harder for you to obtain and sustain an erection as you've grown older, BJOB, the work it takes to suck you off — they're called blowjobs for a reason — has gotten harder for her as she's grown older. I would urge you to see a sex therapist together, BJOB, someone who can facilitate a conversation between you and your wife about your shared sexual interests, your aging bodies, what used to work, what still works, and the sexual compromises and hacks that can make sex better for both of you. And maybe hearing you tell someone else that you're still very attracted to your wife will convince her it's true.

A few practical sex tips: Instead of starting with vaginal intercourse and then pivoting to oral — after breaking for a quick whore's bath — why not start with oral, get really close (say it with me: the point of orgasmic inevitability), and then finish with vaginal? And if being manually stimulated to orgasm is good enough for the wife (most of the time), BJOB, it should be good enough for you (most of the time): while they can be annoying to clean, a high-quality Fleshlight masturbatory aide — when lubed up and wielded the right way — comes close to simulating oral sex and cleaning one is less work than giving a blowjob. Get some vibrators while you're toy shopping, a couple of penetrative toys, and — if it's long penetration sessions your wife wants — get a dildo harness. And then when your wife does suck your dick, BJOB, you'll know it's because she's feeling it — she's in the mood to suck dick and wants to suck yours — and you'll be able to relax and

enjoy that blowjob without guilt.

Three data points:

1. Same-sex marriage of 10 years.
2. He is 60, I am 71.
3. I still love him and believe that he loves me.

When I first met my husband the sex was the best I had ever had. Now my husband claims he doesn't want to have sex because he has gained weight. What can I do? When we do have sex, it consists of me giving him a blowjob as he just lies there. This occurs about six times a year. At best, I get his hand on my cock until he comes, then I have to finish myself off. This is not enough for me in regard to frequency or mutual engagement. We talked about the infrequency issue two years ago and agreed to schedule sex. That did not last. A year ago, we talked about his lack of engagement and the response was that he did not feel sexy or attractive anymore. But I still find him as sexy and attractive as ever! In our conversations about this, he claims (and I believe him) that he is not seeking sex elsewhere, and is not seeking relief otherwise. He refused my suggestion that we could see a counselor and insists he wants to work this out privately. I am increasingly impatient — I need to fuck and get fucked — and worried this situation will not improve.

Three sex questions:


1. Seek sex outside the marriage? If so, how do I broach this subject?
2. Hold on for another (period of time?) and if no change, seek a separation/divorce?
3. Give up as this has gone on for some time now?

— Justifying Increasingly Sexless Marriage

1. This particular subject — opening up your marriage — seems easily broached, JISM, seeing as most gay marriages are open. And seeing as gay couples are less likely to divorce than straight or lesbian couples, a little realism about (or a little fatalism towards) outside sexual contact appears to be a stabilizing force in our marriages, JISM, not a destabilizing one. Take your relationship: right now you're contemplating divorce because you're not getting the sex you need at home. If you were allowed to get a little of that sex elsewhere — if you were allowed to take supplements — you wouldn't be contemplating divorce.
2. I might advise you to end your marriage in the hopes of finding someone who was the complete package — a man who loves you as much as you love him and wants to fuck you as often as you wanna be fucked — if you were a younger man, JISM. But starting over at your age seems like much a bigger lift than getting your husband to OK seeking sex outside your marriage.
3. I think you should give up — not on your marriage, JISM, but on forcing your husband to have sex he doesn't wanna have. It's possible your husband has lost interest in sex and his weight gain is just an excuse; it's also possible your husband is depressed or may be suffering from a hormonal imbalance. Encourage him to see his doctor and get a full physical and mental health workup. But if he's fine and his hormone levels are normal and he isn't willing to do what it takes (physically or emotionally) to feel more comfortable in his body, you should insist on being released from the monogamous commitment you made when he did wanna fuck you.

Got problems? Yes, you do! Email your question for the column to mailbox@savage.love! Or record your question for the Savage Lovecast at savage.love/jaskdan! Podcasts, columns and more at Savage.Love

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